

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for use in an information processing system for generating a recommendation at a processing device, the method comprising the steps of:

pre-defining one or more user-selectable limiting factors in a recommender system that limit characteristics of a recommendation-generating process implemented in the recommender system;

receiving an input and one or more limiting factors in a the recommender system;
at least a subset of the one or more limiting factors being selectable by a user of the device, the one or more limiting factors defining one or more characteristics of content to be excluded by an output recommendation of the recommender system;

processing the input in the recommender system in accordance with the one or more pre-defined, user-selectable limiting factors; and

generating thean output recommendation based at least in part on the processed input and a stored profile associated with the device, a characteristic of the generating step being configured by the recommender system in accordance with the one or more limiting factors.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further including the step of generating a ripeness indicator associated with the output recommendation, the ripeness indicator being indicative of the characteristic of the generating step as configured in accordance with the one or more user-selectable limiting factors.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the ripeness indicator comprises a visual indicator having at least a first state corresponding to a first color and a second state corresponding to a second color.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the ripeness indicator comprises an audible indicator.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~at least a subset of the one or more of the user-selectable~~ limiting factors ~~are~~is selectable via a user interface of the processing device.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the user-selectable limiting factorss comprises a specified limit on an amount of time that may be spent by the recommender system in generating the output recommendation.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the user-selectable limiting factorss comprises a specified limit on an amount of power consumption utilized in conjunction with generating the output recommendation.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the user-selectable limiting factorss comprises a specified limit on a quality measure associated with the output recommendation.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the user-selectable ~~a given~~ limiting factorss is selectable by the user as one of a plurality of points along a scale from a low level of the limiting factor to a high level of the limiting factor.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the processing device is configured for presentation of the output recommendation in a visually-perceptible manner on a display of the device.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the processing device is configured for presentation of the output recommendation in an audibly-perceptible manner using a speaker associated with the device.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the processing device comprises at least one of a desktop or portable personal computer, a personal digital assistant, a wireless telephone and a set top box.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~wherein the one or more limiting factors are stored as part of the profile~~ further including generating a ripeness indicator associated with the one or more user-selectable limiting factors.

14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for use in generating a recommendation in a processing device of an information processing system, the apparatus comprising:
a memory for storing a profile associated with the device; and
a processor coupled to the memory, the processor being operative to process an input and one or more limiting factors in an implementation of a recommender system, ~~at least a subset of the one or more limiting factors being~~ pre-defined and selectable by a user of the device prior to the processor processing the input, the one or more limiting factors defining one or more characteristics of ~~content to be excluded by an output recommendation of a recommendation-~~ generating process implemented in the recommender system, and to generate the output recommendation based at least in part on the input and the stored profile associated with the device, ~~a characteristic of the recommendation-generation operation-generating process~~ being configured by the recommender system in accordance with the one or more limiting factors.

15. (Canceled)

16. (New) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the processor generates a ripeness indicator associated with the one or more limiting factors.

17. (New) A method for use in an information processing system for generating a recommendation at a processing device, the method comprising:

- receiving an input in a recommender system from a source separate from the processing device, the recommender system operating on a recommendation-generating process;
- processing the input in the recommender system in accordance with one or more pre-defined, user-selectable factors that limit characteristics of the recommendation-generating process;
- generating an output recommendation based on the processed input; and
- generating a ripeness indicator associated with the one or more pre-defined, user-selectable limiting factors.

18. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein at least one of the user-selectable factors comprises a specified limit on an amount of time that may be spent by the recommender system in generating the output recommendation.

19. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein at least one of the user-selectable factors comprises a specified limit on an amount of power consumption utilized in conjunction with generating the output recommendation.

20. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein at least one of the user-selectable factors comprises a specified limit on a quality measure associated with the output recommendation.